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ACTION ARA-01

INFO LOG-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INRE-00 INR-01 ADS-00 NSAE-00
PA-02 PRS-01 SP-01 /006W
-----0C169B 061706Z /38

O 061708Z FEB 92
FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6811
AMEMBASSY ANTIGUA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GRENADA IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS BRIDGETOWN 00806

USIAC

USIA FOR P/M, P/F, P/PFL, AR/COTTER, VOA/BX, VOA/BXN
- MEEK, VOA/BRL
STATE FOR ARA/CAR, ARA/P

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: N/A
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - COUP ATTEMPT IN VENEZUELA

1. THE BRIDGETOWN PAPER " THE BARBADOS ADVOCATE"
DEALS WITH THE ATTEMPTED COUP IN VENEZUELA IN ITS
FEBRUARY 6 EDITORIAL. THE EDITORIAL CONNECTS THE COUP
TO IMF AUSTERITY PROGRAMS IMPLEMENTED IN THAT COUNTRY.

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2. "THE ATTEMPT EARLIER THIS WEEK TO OVERETHROW
PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ OF VENEZUELA IS ANOTHER
SIGN OF THE ON-GOING UNREST IN THAT COUNTRY. IT IS
DESPERATION THAT IS GROUNDED IN HARDSHIPS THAT COME
IN THE TRAIN OF INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND AUSTERITY
PROGRAMMES.

3. "...IN RECENT MONTHS...THERE HAS BEEN GROWING
UNREST IN VENEZUELA AS THE COUNTRY HAS TRIED TO LIVE
WITH AN IMF STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT PROGRAM WHICH HAS
UNDERMINED THE VENEZUELAN'S STANDARD OF LIVING. LATE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: NORMAN M BOUTON
DATE/CASE ID: 22 JUL 2008 200503656

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LAST YEAR THERE WERE RIOTS SPARKED BY RISING PRICES, IN WHICH PEOPLE WERE KILLED IN CLASHES WITH THE POLICE.

4. " ACCORDING TO REPORTS THE VENEZUELAN ECONOMY HAS BEGUN TO SHOW AN UPTURN BUT THIS HAS NOT BEEN GREAT
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EXT

ENOUGH TO REGISTER ANY APPRECIABLE IMPROVEMENT IN THE PEOPLE'S LIVING STANDARDS. RISING PRICES ARE STILL A BOTHER AND PEOPLE CONTINUE TO TAKE THEIR DISCONTENT AND ANGER TO THE STREETS.

5. " SO FAR THE MAJORITY OF THE ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL HAS REMAINED LOYAL TO PRESIDENT PEREZ. BUT THE ATTEMPTED COUP BY PARATROOP REBELS SHOWS THAT THERE IS A DEEPENING DISCONTENT WHICH HAS NOW REACHED THE ARMED FORCES.

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6. " WHEREAS MANY OF THE RECENT MILITARY REVOLTS IN LATIN AMERICA HAVE BEEN THE RESULT OF IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES, WHAT HAS NOW SURFACED IN VENEZUELA IS DIRECTLY RELATED TO ECONOMIC HARDSHIPS AND IS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THE HIGH PRICE SOME POLITICAL LEADERS ARE FORCED TO PAY WHEN THEIR COUNTRIES STRUGGLE WITH IMF PROGRAMMES.

7. "...WE NOW HAVE THE DEVELOPMENTS IN VENEZUELA. THE DESPERATION THAT CITIZENS EXPERIENCE AS ONE OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF IMF AUSTERITY PROGRAMMES CANNOT BE EASILY DISREGARDED BY GOVERNMENTS WHEN THEY TURN TO THE IMF IN TRYING TO GET THEIR ECONOMIES BACK ON TRACK." WATERS

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